

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 PC-01 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /088 W

-----032463 061520Z /46

O R 061440Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4412

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5418

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PERP, GH, US

SUBJ: GEN. AKUFFO DECLARES NEW REGIME WILL SIDE WITH
WEST

1. AT REQUEST OF CHIEF OF STATE AKUFFO, I MET ALONE
WITH HIM AND ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME
MILITARY COUNCIL IN HIS BURMA CAMP OFFICE SHORTLY
AFTER NOON TODAY. MY VISIT WAS ONE OF A SERIES
ARRANGED TODAY BY GEN. AKUFFO WITH HEADS OF ALL
WESTERN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN ACCRA.

2. GEN. AKUFFO SAID HE WANTED MY GOVERNMENT TO KNOW
THAT NEW GHANAIAAN ADMINISTRATION HAD DECIDED TO PUT
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND,
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IN PARTICULAR, WITH U.S. (AS AN ASIDE HE MENTIONED
THAT BLOC DIPLOMATS WOULD NOT BE CALLED IN UNTIL
TOMORROW. THIS WOULD BE A CLEAR SIGNAL OF THE CHOICE
NEW GOG HAD MADE.) THE GOG WAS DETERMINED TO TAKE
STEPS TO MEET PRESSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE
COUNTRY AND CLEARLY NEEDED HELP FROM ITS FRIENDS.
THE SMC DID NOT WANT THINGS TO REACH THE STAGE

THEY HAD IN ZAIRE. IT PLANNED TO APPROACH IMF SOON FOR HELP AND HOPED U.S. AND OTHER GOOD FRIENDS WOULD BACK ITS APPLICATION. IN ADDITION HE EARNESTLY HOPED U.S. WOULD BE GENEROUS IN COMING TO GHANA'S AID IN THIS PERIOD OF GREAT NEED. HE MENTIONED WITH APPROVAL POSSIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM PRIVATE U.S. FIRMS AS DISCUSSED BY THE TEAM WHICH WAS RECENTLY HERE (ACCRA 5185), BUT EMPHASIZED NEED FOR OFFICIAL USG HELP AS WELL.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF AKUFFO'S STATEMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI STATED THAT CHOICE BEING MADE BY GOG WAS NOT WITHOUT DANGER IN AFRICA TODAY. HE HOPED THAT IN ADDITION TO FINANCIAL AID, U.S. WOULD STAND READY TO HELP WITH SECURITY ASSISTANCE SHOULD THAT PROVE NECESSARY. FRIENDSHIP WAS A TWO WAY STREET AND GHANA WOULD RELY ON ITS FRIENDS FOR HELP WHEN NEEDED. GEN. AKUFFO NODDED APPROVAL OF FELLI'S WORDS.

4. IN REPLY I STATED THAT U.S. HAD BEEN A GOOD FRIEND OF GHANA'S SINCE DAY OF INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE IN THE FUTURE. WE HAD GIVEN MUCH ASSISTANCE IN THE PAST TO HELP IN GHANA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WERE DOING SO RIGHT NOW AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE. AS REQUESTED, I WOULD IMMEDIATELY TRANSMIT GEN. AKUFFO'S WORDS TO MY GOVERNMENT, AND
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WE WOULD WATCH CLOSELY AS THE GOG ATTEMPTED TO SOLVE ITS SERIOUD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
HOLMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, GOVERNMENT REFORM, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ACCRA05418
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780277-0611
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780793/aaaadaba.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 88f6fb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2110542
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GEN. AKUFFO DECLARES NEW REGIME WILL SIDE WITH WEST
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, GH, US, (AKUFFO, F W K)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/88f6fb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014